

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 8 November 1968



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**THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
8 NOVEMBER 1968**

1. South Vietnam

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2. North Korea -
South Korea

The North Korean guerrillas who landed on the South Korean coast Sunday seem to be trapped in a South Korean dragnet. Problems of weather and terrain will impede the roundup, but all escape routes are blocked.

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3. Jarring Mission

The Jordanian and Egyptian foreign ministers have gone home complaining, as expected, that the latest Israeli document represents no forward movement. Nobody seems willing to let the Jarring mission die, but neither Cairo nor Tel Aviv is in a mood for any conciliatory moves. Jarring himself does not expect any developments for some time. He may transfer his base of operations to Europe.

4. West Germany -
Berlin

Tomorrow is the 50th anniversary of the abortive Communist revolution which broke out in Germany in 1918, and the radical students plan to celebrate with new demonstrations. They are finding it increasingly hard to provoke the police countermeasures which help to keep their movement glued together. Tomorrow's demonstrations may be the hardest test of police restraint yet.

5. Soviet Union

All signs indicate that the Soviets will try another unmanned circumlunar flight in the next few days. The space support ships should be on station by Saturday.

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6. India -
Soviet Union

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7. Communist China -
Laos

Chinese construction crews apparently have resumed work on a road leading into Laos from southern China. This is the biggest spurt since 1963 in Peking's on-again, off-again road building program in Laos.

8. Iran -
Saudi Arabia

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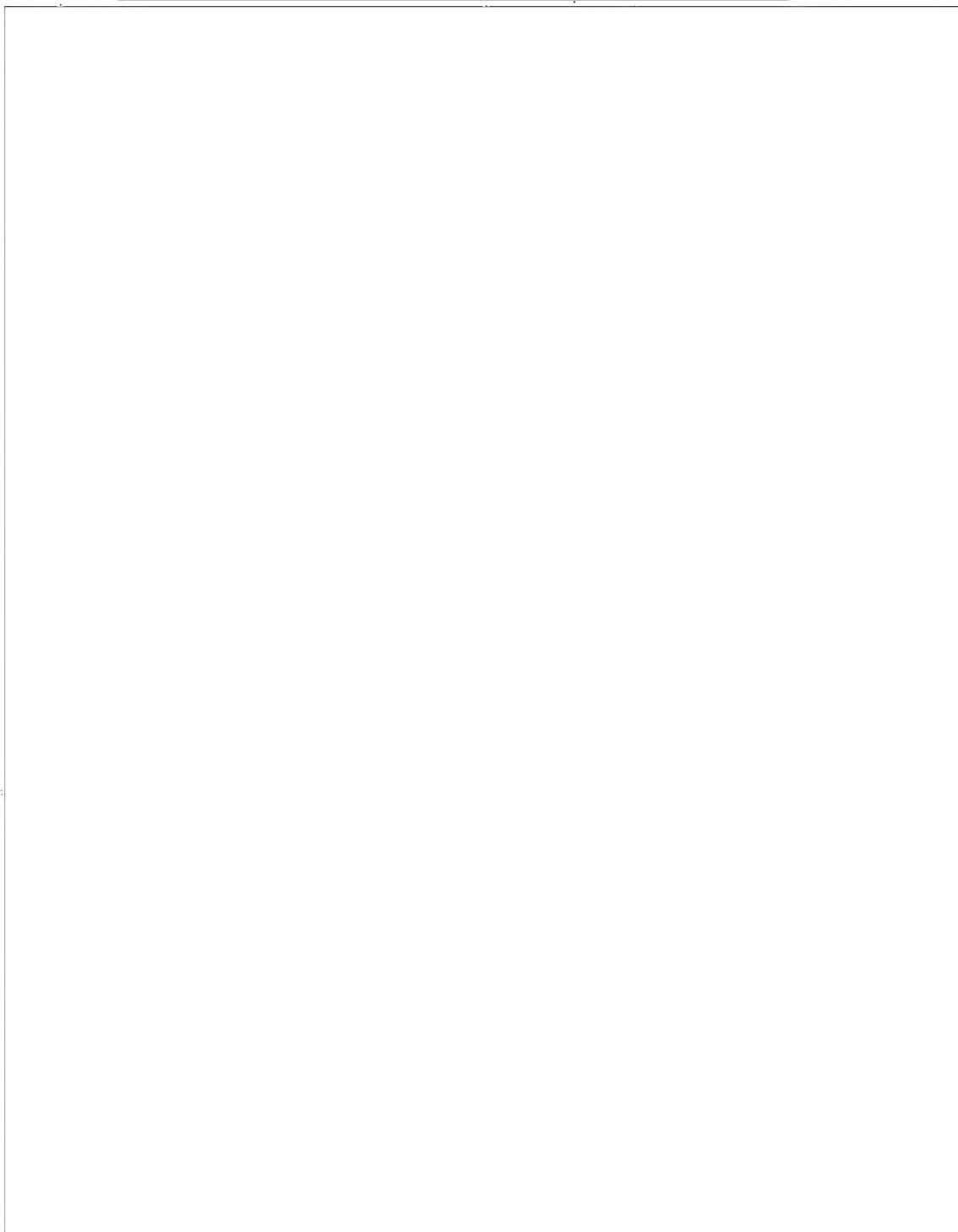
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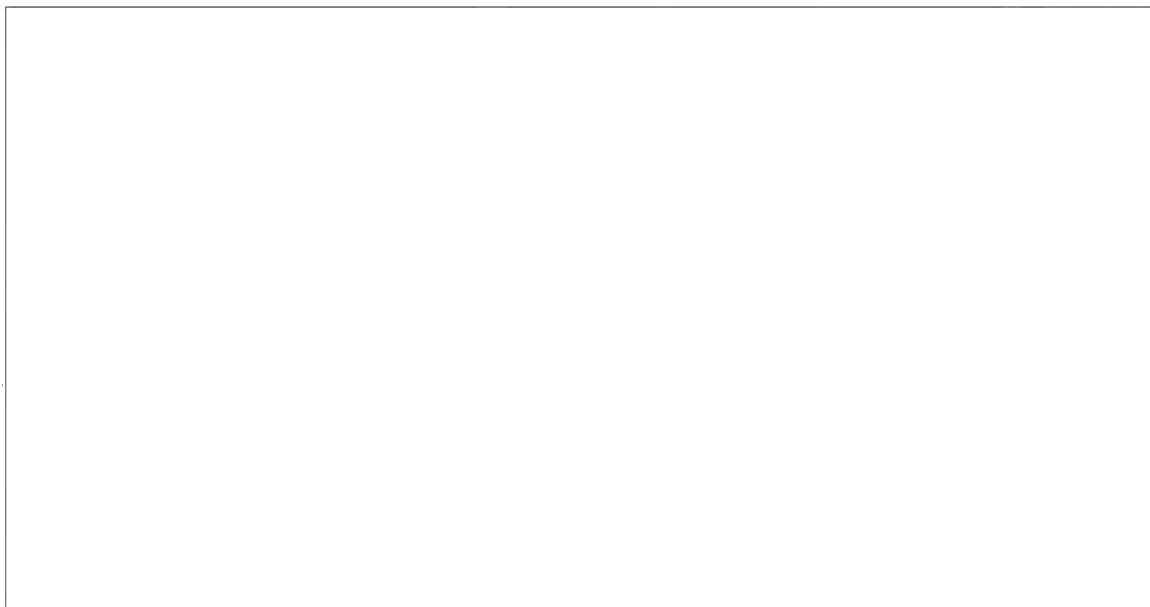
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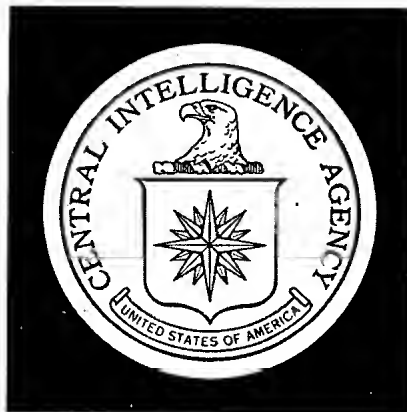


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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Participation: The Communists have recently made some unusually explicit references to North Vietnamese participation in the war in South Vietnam. A Viet Cong broadcast on 5 November lauded North Vietnam for forcing the US to stop the bombing and asserted that this "will certainly further encourage Northern armed forces and people to increase their aid to the South and join their strength...to completely defeat the US aggressors on the remaining half of the fatherland."

The following day, a similar theme was sounded in a radio account of a conference of Communist forces in South Vietnam. The conference reportedly adopted a resolution acclaiming the bombing halt and praising North Vietnam's "iron-like determination to join with" Communist forces in the South in achieving complete victory.

This language is unusual, but Hanoi has been increasingly candid concerning the role of North Vietnamese forces in the war in the South. The North Vietnamese spokesman in Paris took up the issue during a news conference on 6 November when he was asked if a recent propaganda statement implied that Hanoi is willing to discuss withdrawing its forces from South Vietnam. He claimed that some news agencies had maliciously misinterpreted the statement but then fell back on the standard line that "Vietnam is one" and that all Vietnamese have a "right" to oppose US "aggression" wherever it occurs.

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Logistics: No significant increase in the number of trucks entering the Laotian panhandle from North Vietnam has been reported since the bombing halt, but photography reveals that the Communists are acting quickly to repair their logistic network.

When repairs now being made to damaged portions of the road network in both North Vietnam and Laos are completed, the Communists could increase the level of trucking into and through Laos.

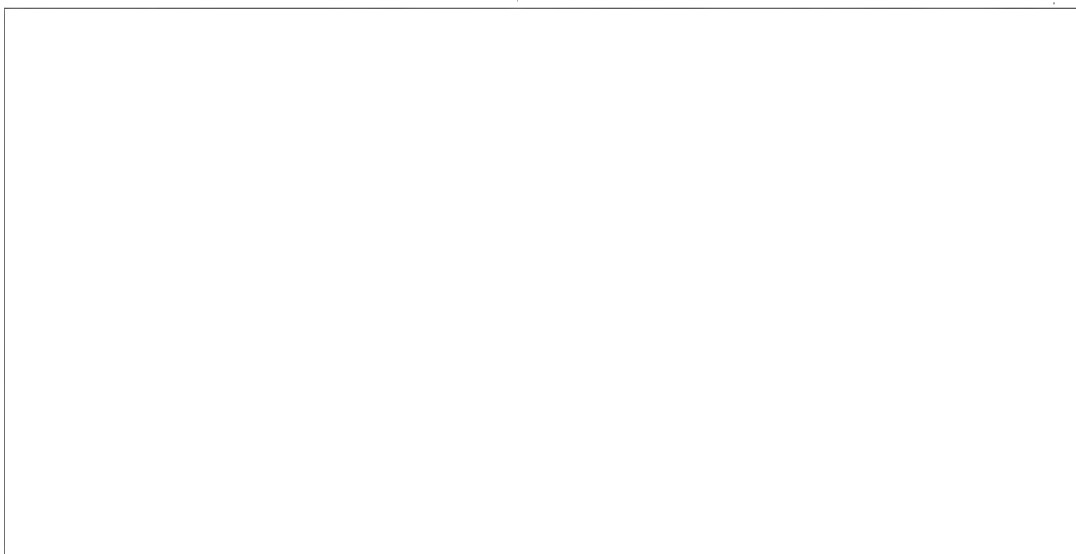
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The problem of determining the extent to which the North Vietnamese are taking advantage of the bombing cessation may be complicated by the seasonal increase in truck traffic into Laos which normally occurs at this time of year with the advent of drier weather.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

On Election: There has been no comment by Hanoi or by North Vietnamese spokesmen elsewhere about the Nixon election victory.

The Front representative in Phnom Penh, however, was quoted by UPI yesterday as saying the Communists anticipate no essential changes in US policy under the Nixon administration. He said that the Communists do not see "any fundamental differences" between the Johnson administration and the Republicans, and that any US Government will have to either stop its "aggression" or suffer greater defeats.

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